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PATENT
Atty. Docket No. 27600/X046A

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT
AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): James L. Warmus et al.

Serial No.: 10/755,743

Filed: January 12, 2004

For: Imposition Process and Apparatus
for Variable Imaging System

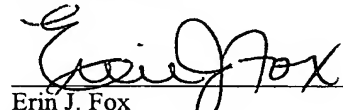
Group Art Unit: Unknown

Examiner: Unknown

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March 29, 2004


Erin J. Fox
Registration No. 52,261

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P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PETITION TO MAKE SPECIAL UNDER MPEP § 708.02

Sir:

Applicants, by their attorney, hereby petition that the above-identified application be made special. Enclosed is a check for the petition fee of \$130.00 as set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.17(h). It is believed that all of the claims of the present invention are directed to a single invention.

A pre-examination search was conducted in the United States Patent and Trademark Office with respect to U.S. Serial No. 08/478,397, the parent application to the present application. The field of search was 395/766-768, 772, 773, 779, 782, 784, 787, 802, 803, 943, 946, 116, 117, 382/180, 707/505-507, 511, 512, 514, 515, 517, 520, 522, 525, 539, 540, 908, 910. Items of art found in this search and art found in searches by the assignee of this application were made of record in the present application by an Information Disclosure Statement and accompanying Form PTO-1449 filed on January 29, 2004, and a Supplemental

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Information Disclosure Statement and accompanying Form PTO-1449 filed on March 16, 2004.

The pending claims in the application are patentable over the prior art of record in the application. Specifically, claim 14, as amended in the Supplemental Preliminary Amendment filed herewith, and claims 15-23 dependent thereon, recite an apparatus for controlling an electronic press. The apparatus includes means for developing first and second sets of template data representing associated first and second templates, respectively, wherein each set of template data includes master data representing a reusable object to be printed and position data representing a position on a page at which a variable object is to be printed. The apparatus further includes means responsive to the developing means and to a database having a number of entries representing variable objects for causing the electronic press to print output pages with the reusable object and the variable objects. The causing means comprises means for separating the master data from the position data for each set of template data in preparation for rasterization.

Further, claim 24, as amended in the Supplemental Preliminary Amendment filed herewith, and claims 25-33 dependent thereon, specify a method of controlling an electronic press. The method comprises the step of developing first and second data sets representing associated first and second templates, respectively, wherein each data set has master data representing reusable objects to be printed and position data representing a position on a page at which a variable object is to be printed. The method further includes the step of developing a database having a number of entries each of which represents a variable object. The electronic press is caused to print output pages with the reusable objects and variable objects by separating the master data from the position data for each data set in preparation for rasterization.

None of the art discloses or suggests an apparatus for controlling an electronic press, wherein the apparatus comprises means responsive to a developing means and to a database having a number of entries representing variable objects for causing the electronic press to print output pages with the reusable object and variable objects wherein the causing means comprises means for separating the master data from the position data for each set of template data in preparation for rasterization, as specified by claims 14-23.

Further, none of the art discloses a method of controlling an electronic press, wherein the method comprises the step of causing the electronic press to print output pages with

reusable objects and variable objects by separating master data from position data for data sets representing associated first and second templates in preparation for rasterization, as recited by claims 24-33 of the present application.

In fact, EP 0602547 discloses a reproduction process system for executing a variety of reproduction-related processes without specifying individual page construction data for each item. In the reproduction process system, page layout data is generated and stored, wherein the page layout data represents the positions of image parts including picture data and linework data on a page.

Gauthier U.S. Patent No. 5,729,665 discloses a process for printing different versions of a document defined in one or more template files developed by a publisher. The template files include information associated with the placement and appearance of fixed information and variable information on pages. Data representing the variable information are stored in a database. Initially, the template files are processed to produce bitmaps. More specifically, fixed portions of each template file are ripped (i.e., converted to a bitmap) until an area that is to contain variable information is reached. The areas containing variable information are not ripped. Instead, the location of each area is stored as well as the graphics state defining the appearance of the variable information to be reproduced in such area. Thereafter, ripping of subsequent portions of the file continues until a next variable information area is reached, whereupon the location and graphics state of the next area are stored. This procedure continues until all the template files are processed to create bitmaps representing the fixed portions of the template files. Bitmaps are then created for each area of variable information. This is accomplished by building a bitmapped font cache for each stored graphics state and deriving a bitmap for the associated area by assembling the bitmapped characters from the font cache in accordance with data stored in a database. The bitmaps of the fixed portions of the template files are merged with the different variable data bitmaps to create bitmaps of each of the versions of the document.

“Digital Color Printing in Japan: A Report from Early Users,” The Seybold Report on Publishing Systems, volume 24, number 13, March 13, 1995, pp. 13-19 (hereinafter referred to as “The Seybold Report”), discloses merging one or more items from a file containing variable data (text or images) with static content in a predefined page layout. Thereafter, the result of the merging is rasterized and provided to a print engine.

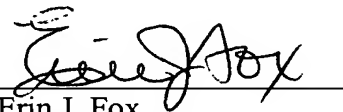
Buchanan U.S. Patent No. 5,267,155 discloses a document generation system based on a template document having static text and "holes" associated with records in a database. The database records consist of multiple text phrases for possible insertion in each hole. When a finished document is to be created, the template document is recalled and the text phrases for each hole are displayed to permit selection thereof for placement into the finished document at the hole location.

Additional art is made of record and summarized in applicants' Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement and Form PTO-1449 filed on March 16, 2004.

An early and favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

McCracken & Frank LLP
Attorneys at Law
200 W. Adams
Suite 2150
(312) 263-4700
Customer No: 29471

By: 
Erin J. Fox
Reg. No: 52,261

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